

RARE & ENDANGERED PLANT HIGHLIGHT

EUPHORBIA OBESA

Also known as the baseball plant, *Euphorbia obesa* is found only in the Great Karoo region of South Africa. Unsustainable harvesting by collectors and plant exporters almost resulted in the plant becoming extinct. As a result national and international legislation have been enacted to protect the remaining populations.

While *Euphorbia obesa* remains endangered in its native habitat, it has become very common in cultivation. By growing large numbers of *Euphorbia obesa*, nurseries and botanical gardens have been working to ensure that specimens being traded and sold among plant collectors are not obtained from the wild, thus protecting it for posterity.

